1	2	3
.....		prices and fresh contracts have been fixed. This project is likely to be completed by 31.3.2010.
	GAUGE CONVERSION	
1.	Shimoga-Talguppa (97 Km.)	Delay caused due to heavy rains in 2008-09 and problems in getting stone quarry products. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
	DOUBLING	
1.	Dharwad-Kambarganvi (26 Km.)	Land acquisition problems were experienced in this project. After lot of efforts, land at Dharwad has been acquired. Land at Kambarganvi and Mugad has still not been handed over. Dharwad-Mugad section is targeted for completion by 31.3.2010.
2.	Arasikere-Birur (44 Km)	Regular meetings are held with state authorities to sort out land acquisition problems. Section 4(1) for land acquisition has been issued recently. Work is likely to be completed by 31.3.2010 from Arasikere to Devanur.
3.	Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling (92 Km) with electrification of Kengeri-Mysore section	Regular meetings are held with Regional Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Karnataka to sort out land acquisition problems between Settihalli, Mandya and Mysore.

Gauge conversion

248. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to convert all small gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(b) whether it has prepared a plan with time-frame; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Direct train between Delhi and Kanpur

249. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct train between Delhi and Kanpur *via* Mathura/Hathras and Kasganj; and

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to provide such a train to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Passenger halt at Nalco Nagar

†250. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of the announcement made by the then Hon'ble Railway Minister in his last rail budget speech regarding providing a halt at "Nalco Nagar" between Talcher Road and Angul under East Coastal Railway in Orissa;

(b) whether her Ministry is also aware that heavy profit earning public sector company National Aluminium Company (NALCO) is ready to bear the expenditure to be incurred on construction of platform at proposed Nalco Nagar passenger halt; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Additional berth adjacent to windows in trains

†251. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have fixed an additional berth between two berths adjacent to the window in three thousand IInd Sleeper coaches, as a result of which passengers are facing so many difficulties;

(b) whether the Railways had made any survey to get the opinion of people regarding this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 97 per cent people in south-west zone had made objection on it;

(d) whether her Ministry is contemplating to cancel the scheme after the objection by people; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on fixing additional berth between two berths in IInd Sleeper till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In order to enhance the passenger carrying capacity, it was programmed to provide additional longitudinal middle berths in sleeper class coaches. About 5000 sleeper class coaches have been provided with such berths.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.